

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 9, 2010 has been entered.

2. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed on March 9, 2010. Claims 14 and 15 have been previously cancelled. Claims 1-13, and 16-20 have been amended. Therefore, Claims 1-13 and 16-25 are currently pending and have been considered below.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1, line 3 has an obvious typographical error, 'process' should read 'prices'. Appropriate correction is required.

Examiner Amendment

4. An Interview was conducted with Applicant attorney, Raj Abhyanker on June 15, 2010 in which there was an agreement to correct an obvious typographical error. Hence, the Examiner Amendment to Claim 1, line 3 which recites ‘...in searching information relating to process by sellers using a processor...’ shall be replace by ‘...in searching information relating to prices by sellers using a processor...’.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-13 and 16-25 are allowed.

Examiner’s Statement of Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention pertains to methods and a system for a search engine comprising searching for multi-variable information via reducing search time by determining a connection parameter (including pre-fetched information) related to affecting the time involved in searching said information; and presenting the effective price in association with the selected/requested product based upon populating a database with that multi-variable information (including applying discounts) from said searching, and computing via a web server the effective price in response from said multi-variable information from said searching.

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The independent claims (Claims 1 and 2) each include the limitation wherein determining a connection parameter related to affecting time involved in searching information relating to prices by sellers using a processor and searching information relating to the connection parameter so as to reduce search time for relating to prices by sellers of a selected product, computing effective prices in response to searched multi-variable information and presenting that effective price, including discounts, in association with that selected product.

Prior art was found which discloses searching for multi-variable information relating to prices by sellers of a selected product, populating a database with that multi-variable information and presenting a price in association with that selected product (see Kraft paragraph [0002] lines 5-7; paragraph [0027], lines 6-7 and paragraph [0012], lines 1-10); prior art was also found whereby one connection parameter 'expiration of time to live timer' whereby a resource retrieval and delivery process thread is terminated (see Catan column 27, lines 18-20).

However, no additional prior art has been found which discloses a system and method whereby a connection parameter relating to affecting time involved in searching in response to the connection parameter so as to reduce search time and subsequently perform the search engine functions to achieve populating the database, computing an effective price and presenting said effective price resulting from the reduced search time.

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Hence, the instant application performs one additional step in the process of matching user's requests for a selected product and presentation of effective prices via filtering the effective price by one or more connection parameter (filters).. This step overcomes Kraft and Catan.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL H. GOLDMAN whose telephone number is (571)270-5101. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 6:00am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on 571-272-6678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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Mhg
June 10, 2010

/James W Myhre/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3688